



1st QUARTER-2009

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# HEALTHLINE

Quarterly Publication of the Department of Health & Wellness

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Haritha Battula, Env. Specialist  
Juanita M. Bentley, Disease Inv.  
Widalys Sosa (promotional)  
Public Health Nutritionist, Supervisor  
Milon E. Hosley, Computer Op.  
Teresa K. Bell,  
Public Health Educator  
Paul D. Barry, MD  
Medical Program, Administrator  
Dawn R. Wilson, MD, Staff Physician  
Dion M. Barquet, Public Health Nurse  
Rita A. Hickson, Disease Investigator  
Tawanda S. Smith, PHN1  
Veronica Hartwell,  
Health Coordinator  
David L. Mosley, Deputy Sheriff II  
Tunya Y. Richardson, Disease Inv.  
Burl R. Burnett, Behavioral Health Cl.  
Michael Squibb (promotion) Health  
Educator  
Edna Belgrave, Interpreter  
Darleen B. Toney, HIV/AIDS Clinical  
Consultant (Dental)  
Juanita D. Hines, Nursing Supervisor  
Angelique S. Wells (promotion)  
Nursing Supervisor  
Larry E. Hudson (promotion)  
Environmental Technician  
Vincent Ford (promotion) Accounting  
Supervisor  
Samuel Guilford (promotion)  
Environmental Specialist, Sr.  
Albert R. Slappey, Deputy Sheriff

## RETIREEES

Phyllis Carter  
Bob Finton  
Vivian White

## From The Interim Director, Dr. Kim Turner

I want to take this time to officially announce the re-opening of the Neighborhood Health and Community Center. This center is one of Fulton County's targeted pilot projects which integrate primary care, behavioral health, workforce development and public health. The goal is to be able to provide seamless service delivery to residents of Fulton County. We have established partnerships with Morehouse School of Medicine which will join us in the provision of care and the shared mission of service. On February 6, 2009, we had the ribbon cutting ceremony and the naming of the community center, "Life Beyond Sunset" by a Kennedy Middle School student. I want to thank everyone who had any involvement in the success of this project. Our work continues as we address access to care and health disparities issues. We are hopeful that this center becomes the new medical home for residents in this and surrounding communities.

Aldredge Health Center has launched the "Primary Care Lite" program to also address access to health care issues. This program will be located on the second floor, adjacent to Employee Health. It will address health concerns as it relates to hypertension,

cholesterol and diabetes. The above pilots are possible due to additional enhancements supported by the Board of Commissioners.

I also want to introduce and welcome our newest member to the Communicable Disease and Prevention Branch, Dr. Paul Barry, Health Program Administrator. Dr. Barry will provide medical oversight to the Communicable Disease Division.

In the midst of changes throughout the nation and state government; local government is changing, as well. Fulton County is re-engineering how we do business; a New Way of Government. By now, all should have received a copy or had a meeting to explain the re-org chart. If not, please contact me. We are now closely collaborating with other County departments to provide residents with one-stop-service to assist clients with needs other than health care. As a result, Health and Wellness, Behavioral Health, Human Services, Housing and Community Development, Cooperative Extension, Library and Arts, are under the umbrella of Health and Human Services. This is an efficient way of enhancing service delivery to our clients. In most cases, operations will be very similar and not look any different from our perspective. However, we will be able to enhance our abilities to refer clients for adjunct services. There will be no job losses or demotions as a result of the collaborations. We hope to



realize efficiencies and economies of scale through attrition. With this efficiency, the goal is to be able to provide benefits to all employees in the future.

Hopefully by now you have been informed about Common Ground: Creating Equity through Public Policy and Community Engagement. This document is the groundwork for how we are going to approach health disparities and address social determinants of health. I recommend that you take time to read Common Ground to have a clearer understanding of the direction we are moving toward in our efforts to adhere to new County policy of collaboration and non-duplication of services. A copy of this document is posted on our website at [fultoncountygahahealth.org](http://fultoncountygahahealth.org) under Publications and Reports.

*Dr. Kim Turner*

## March 2 – 8 is Dental Assistant's Recognition Week!

We all know that the dental assistant is there to assist the dentist by providing extra hands and offer a more efficient dental treatment for our clients here at the Department of Health and Wellness. Let us and materials; make casts of the teeth and mouth from impressions; clean and polish removable appliances; and make temporary crowns.

It doesn't stop there, on a typical day a dental assistant who delivers



patient care will prepare clients for treatment, and obtain dental records; hand instruments and materials to dentists, and keep patients' mouths dry and clear by using suction or other devices; sterilize and disinfect instruments and equipment, prepare tray setups for dental procedures, and instruct patients on postoperative and general oral health care; sometimes prepare materials for making impressions and restorations, expose

radiographs, and process dental x-ray film as directed by a dentist; sometimes remove sutures, apply anesthetics to gums or cavity-preventive agents to teeth, remove excess cement used in the filling process, and place rubber dams on the teeth to isolate them for individual treatment.

So, when you go kicking and screaming into the dentist office for your annual exams, let's appreciate the services that the dental assistant provides for the duration of your visit. Now, let's tilt our hats to the dental assistants of Fulton County. Keep up the good work and we appreciate the love and compassion that you put into your jobs each and every day!

## Communicable Disease Prevention Branch (STD/HIV)

The Communicable Disease Prevention Branch is working diligently to increase awareness and knowledge while decreasing the number of primary and secondary cases reported in Fulton by prompting residents to get tested, seek treatment, and notify their partners. The target audience includes African-Americans, men who have sex with men (MSM), and women who have sex with men (WSM).

The mobile unit is used to provide education and intervention through screening and early detection within the community.



Collaborative efforts have been established with community partners such as schools, churches and even night clubs, just to name a few. This allows the branch to provide training to staff and clients, develop focus groups and on-site testing.

*Did you know Fulton County is number one for Syphilis/HIV cases in Georgia?*

A media campaign was launched to heighten awareness of the Fulton STD/HIV Epidemic. The theme of this campaign is "Face The Facts." Messages were displayed on mobile billboards, billboards, advertised on radio stations and in magazines, and newspapers. With all of the measures taken the Branch would surely increase awareness, knowledge, and action. The messages displayed told the public to know your status! Get Tested! Get Treated! As they continue to promote this message we also must remember that condoms used consistently and correctly are one of the best tools in the prevention of STDs and HIV.



**World TB Day 2009**

Lace up your walking shoes and prepare yourself for the World TB Awareness Walk on Saturday, March 21, 2009. The theme for this year is "Partners for TB Elimination". Registration starts as early as 8 o'clock followed up with the two mile walk throughout historic Grant Park. Bring your family out and enjoy the day while making a difference. To register for the walk visit [www.tbwalk.org](http://www.tbwalk.org)

World TB Day is an annual event to commemorate the date when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of M. tuberculosis in 1882, the bacteria that cause TB.



# Environmental Health Services Received Approval For the Environmental Health Code Revisions

Environmental Health Services Health Code Revisions to become effective January 1, 2009.

The Board of Health recommended revisions to the Fulton County Health Code for submission and consideration by the Fulton County Board of Commission effective January 1, 2009. Fulton County Board of Commissions has approved the code changes.

The Fulton County Board of Health conducted a review of Fulton County regulations under the delegated authority and responsibility of the Department of Health and Wellness, specifically the division of Environmental Health Services. A public hearing was held at the Fulton County Board of Health Meeting on October 23, 2008. There were no comments made from the public at that hearing.

To better protect the health and safety of the public, to incorporate the latest sciences, and to update to address the latest technologies, and to clarify code statements, the Department feels that it would be most advantageous for Fulton County to adopt the State of Georgia Food Code, the Georgia Smokefree Act, and to approve revisions in the Rat Control, Nuisances, Solid Waste, and Swimming Pools and Natural Bathing Places codes.

**The Environmental Health Services Division leadership has revised and is recommending adoption of the following codes:**

**Food Service** – adopting state food code, Department of Human Resources, Public Health, Chapter 290-5-14; repealing Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and Sanitation, Article V, “Food Service”. After painstaking efforts, the State of Georgia passed a new food code (Rules and Regulations “Food Service” Chapter 290-5-14) in July 2007 with a December 2007

implementation date. The new Georgia Food Code is based on the 2005 Model Food and Drug Administration Code; the Conference for Food Protection; and the latest science as it relates to the food service industry. To better protect the health and safety of the public and to be uniform with the rest of the state, the Department feels that it would be most advantageous for Fulton County to adopt the State of Georgia Food Code in its entirety. The only change made for Environmental Health from the

original state code is the definition of “Department” to allow Fulton County to enforce this code. The changes attached reflect

changes to the previous state food code, but many of the new standards adopted in the state food code were already incorporated into the existing Fulton County code, Article V, “Food Service”.

Code Revisions became effective as of February 1, 2009. For more information visit the Environmental Health Services Web page at [www.fultoncountygahhealth.org](http://www.fultoncountygahhealth.org)

**Georgia Smoke free Act 2005** – adopting state code, Department of Human Resources, Chapter Section 290-5-61.01 to 290-5-61.10; repealing Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and Sanitation, Article III, “Clean Indoor Air”. The Georgia Smokefree Act is in effect throughout Georgia, except Fulton County, is more stringent than the current Fulton County, and will achieve uniformity with the rest of the state.

**Swimming Pools** – revision of Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and Sanitation, Article XII, “Swimming Pools and Recreational Waters” (new title, “Swimming Pools and Natural Bathing Places”). This revised code is the result of the Metro Pool Committee’s effort to produce a uniform standard for the entire metropolitan Atlanta area, greatly supported by both metro county Environmental Health and the pool industry.

**Nuisances** – revision of Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and

Sanitation, Article VII, “Nuisances”. The revisions for this code eliminated air quality control which is the responsibility of the state’s Air Protection Branch, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources.

**Solid Waste** – revision of Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and Sanitation, Article X, “Solid Waste”. The revisions eliminated fire standards enforced by Public Safety, and updated referenced tables and charts.

**Rat Control** – revision of Fulton County code, Chapter 34, Health and Sanitation, Article IX, “Rat Control”. The main revisions were reformatting the code and requiring owners, instead of occupants, be responsible for rat control on their properties.



The Spirit Foundation’s Celebration for Life: A Walk For Hope, A Walk for A New Voice was held on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Larry Johnson, REACH for Wellness, carried the banner during the 2-mile walk. This was a way for many to not only pay tribute to the survivors of cervical cancer but in memory of their loved ones as well.

## Neighborhood Union Health Center Re-opened on February 6, 2009

The Fulton County Department of Health and Human Services re-opened Neighborhood Union Health Center on Monday, February 9, 2009. The health center is the first multidiscipline facility in the state designed to address health disparities experienced in the Vine City community. In addition to the Department of Health and Wellness services, the center will provide mental health and substance abuse counseling, career counseling and training and primary care services through partnerships with Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases (MH/DD/AD) and Fulton County - Human Services Office of Workforce Development and Morehouse School of Medicine.

The Neighborhood Union Health Center, located at 186 Sunset Avenue in Atlanta, opened in 1955 in a predominantly African American community during a time of mounting racial tension across the nation. The re-design retains its historical exterior to signify the importance of the facility to the community. A 7,500 square foot addition links to the original building and a community meeting room is added for the community to use for neighborhood programs and meetings.





## Communicable Disease Prevention Branch has a new Medical Program Administrator



Dr. Paul Barry was born in Buffalo, New York. He received a doctorate in medicine in 1971 from the Medical School, State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1972 he completed an internship at The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.

After five years of civilian practice, he entered the Navy in 1977 as a General Medical Officer at Naval Submarine Medical Center, Groton, Connecticut. He later became Undersea Medical Officer at Submarine Squadron 18 on board USS SIMON LIKE (AS 33), Charleston, South Carolina, in June 1978 and joined Submarine Squadron 14 aboard USS HOLLAND (AS 32), the Holy Loch, Scotland, in August 1979. In 1983, Commander Barry became Force Medical Officer for Commander Submarine Force U. S.

Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia. He served in this capacity until 1986. In 1987 he earned a Master of Public Health degree at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, and was certified in occupational medicine by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

Captain Barry served as Commanding Officer, Medical Treatment Facility, USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) from August 1990 to April 1991 in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. When he returned from the Persian Gulf, he became Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Operational Medicine, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC, and in April 1992, Head, Medical Corps Assignments, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC. He assumed command of Navy Environmental Health Center, Norfolk, Virginia, in July 1993 until September 1996 when he became Force Surgeon, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii. In November 1998, he served as Director, Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, but transferred in June 1999 to be the joint medical officer at the Institute for Defense Analyses, Joint Advanced Warfighting Program. In June 2001, he became the Director for Healthcare Operations at Naval Healthcare Support Office, Jacksonville, FL, and in April 2002, he was appointed Deputy Officer in Charge. He retired from the Navy on 01 January 2004, and took a position in Winston-Salem, NC, first as director for occupational medicine, PrimeCare Medical Centers and then, medical director for PrimeCare. From 2008 until January 2009, Dr. Barry was the Corporate Medical Director, Wellness and Disease Management for Novant Health's 23,000 employees. In February 2009, he began his current job as Medical Program Administrator at the Fulton County, Georgia, Department of Health and Wellness.

Dr. Barry is in transition from Lewisville, North Carolina with his wife Teresa. His son, Sean, and grandchildren, Kyle and Erin, live in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. His stepdaughter, Nicole Dumond, lives in San Diego, California and is a pharmacy technician.

### Join VOLUNTEER FULTON

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We are on  
the web:

[www.fultoncountygahealth.org](http://www.fultoncountygahealth.org)



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